

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1705

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DEPT PASS TO NOAA FOR MARTINEAU

DEPT FOR OES/APT FOR GREENBERG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, TOCY, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR WORLD OCEANS AGREEMENT: NORPAX - VISIT TO
FAR EAST INSTITUTES (06.0102)

REFS: (A) STATE 116541, (B) MOSCOW 9677, (C) STATE
109400

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SCST ADVISED THE EMBASSY MAY 15
THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE REQUESTED VISITS
MAY 26-28 (REFS A-C) TO SOVIET OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTES
IN VLADIVOSTOK AND MAGADAN. METAL'NIKOV'S DEPUTY, V.V.
BARTENYEV, STATED THAT THE VISIT REQUEST HAD BEEN RECEIVED
TOO LATE TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS AND ADDED
THAT THE REQUEST HAD BEEN "ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED."

2. EMBASSY OFFICER NOTED THAT THE US NORPAX SCIENTISTS
WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED BY SOVIET REPLY AND PRESSED SCST TO
TRY AGAIN TO ARRANGE THE REQUESTED VISIT. BARTENYEV
REFUSED, ADDING THAT SCIENTISTS AT BOTH FAR EASTERN
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INSTITUTES HAD OTHER COMMITMENTS ON THE REQUESTED DATES.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT. SOVIET
UNWILLINGNESS TO MEET THIS US REQUEST FOR VISITS IS A
VIVID EXAMPLE OF THE IMBALANCE IN ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH INSTITUTES WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THE OCEANS

AGREEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND FROM REF A THAT DEPARTMENT AND NOAA WANT TO PROCEED WITH NORPAX MEETING, IN SPITE OF SOVIET REJECTION OF US REQUEST TO VISIT VLADIVOSTOK AND MAGADAN INSTITUTES. WE SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT --USDEL POINT OUT IMBALANCE IN ACCESS TO INSTITUTES REPRESENTED BY THIS REJECTION AND REGISTER WITH THEIR SOVIET COUNTERPARTS AT NORPAX MEETING US DISAPPOINTMENT WITH SOVIET INABILITY TO ARRANGE VISITS TO THESE INSTITUTES, AND --US SHOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO RECIPROCAL ACTION, SUCH AS INFORMING SOVIETS THAT HENCEFORTH THEY WILL BE DENIED ACCESS TO A LEADING US OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE, FOR EXAMPLE THE SCRIPPS INSTITUTE (LOCATED IN SAN DIEGO, LIKE VLADIVOSTOK A CLOSED AREA) UNTIL WE RECEIVE EQUAL ACCESS TO INSTITUTES LOCATED IN THE SOVIET FAR EAST. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS POSITION MAY IN SOME CASES WORK HARDSHIPS ON US SCIENTISTS; HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE US WILL GAIN THE DESIRED ACCESS UNTIL WE DEMONSTRATE TO THE SOVIETS OUR INTENTION TO INSIST ON STRICT RECIPROCITY. EMBASSY WELCOMES INTENTION, EXPRESSED IN REF A, TO INITIATE PRESSURE FOR IMPROVED US ACCESS.

4. WHILE THE SOVIET CLAIM THAT VISIT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ARRANGED HAD SCST RECEIVED MORE NOTICE IS SUSPECT, IT DOES UNDERLINE THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE NOTIFICATION BY THE US. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT ALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUESTS FOR INSTITUTE VISITS BE TRANSMITTED SIX WEEKS TO ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE. FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE TO MAKE SUCH REQUESTS IN LETTER FORMAT, FROM THE US TO THE SOVIET EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. IN THE PRESENT INSTANCE, WE TELEPHONED SUBJECT REQUEST TO SCST, PER REF B, AND FOLLOWED IT WITH A LETTER FROM THE SCIENCE OFFICE. TOON

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